



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES
RICHARD MILLER
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

STEVEN H. HILFINGER
DIRECTOR

MICHIGAN FIRE FIGHTERS TRAINING COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
Bureau of Fire Services
Constitution Hall
525 W. Allegan Street
Lansing, MI 48933

MEETING MINUTES

February 14, 2012
1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

David Purchase, Michigan Municipal League/Michigan Townships Association
Brian Blomstrom, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association
Aileen Pettinger, Michigan Professional Fire Fighter Union
Karen Towne, Acting State Fire Marshal, Council Member ex Officio
Timothy James, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs

MEMBERS ABSENT

Michael Deprez, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
Steve Richardson, Michigan State Firemen's Association

BFS STAFF PRESENT

Joseph Grutza, OFFT Director
Mike Greis, Curriculum Specialist
BreeAnn Hooker, Recording Secretary

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bob Austin, Wyoming Fire Department
Raymond Wlosinski, Training Coordinator
Kevin Sehlmeier, Grand Rapids Fire Department
Virginia Waterson, Calhoun County Fire Authority
Scott Waterson, Calhoun County Fire Authority

1. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Vice Chairman James called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. A quorum was determined present. Chairman Deprez excused and Councilperson Richardson excused.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilperson Purchase requests to add a comment to the agenda.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Pettinger and seconded by Councilperson Blomstrom to approve the meeting agenda as amended. **MOTION CARRIED.**

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Purchase and seconded by Councilperson Pettinger to approve the December 13, 2011 minutes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. INSTRUCTOR APPLICATIONS

Staff presented the following Instructor applications for the Council's consideration:

- 7 new Probationary Associate Instructors
- 0 new Probationary Instructor I
- 39 Certified Instructor I
- 4 Certified Instructors

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Pettinger and seconded by Councilperson Purchase to approve the instructor applications as submitted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Councilperson Blomstrom requests that those who submit for approval at the Instructor I level through reciprocity be noted on future instructor lists.

Director Grutza noted that certificates will not be awarded for Instructor I status obtained through reciprocity recognition. Instructor I designation will be recorded in the Information Management System.

5. OFFT DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Joseph Grutza

MIOSHA Part 74: The Part 74 committee met December 14, 2011 and January 20, 2012 and continued working on the appendix describing fire fighter positions as well as initial and continuous training. The job duties have been completed and work is continuing on training. Next meeting is Thursday, February 23, 2012.

Instructor I Reciprocity: Applications continue to be submitted and first group will be presented to Council today. 38 of the applicants today are requesting reciprocity.

Instructor Continuing Education Credits: The Office of Fire Fighter Training plan to start the clock for instructor's continuing education requirements is temporally on hold. Our office continues to work with IMS to establish CE credit entry. As a reminder, once the start date is identified; instructors will have three years to meet the following continuing education requirements.

Associate Instructor: 8 hours of instruction and evaluate 1 state exam or 14 hours of in house training

Certified and Instructor I: 8 hours of instruction, evaluate 1 state exam and 10 hours of fire conference and/or county training or 14 hours of in house training and 10 hours of fire conference and/or county training.

Instructor I Program Report: The first approved Fire Instructor I class is scheduled to begin Wednesday, February 15 at Macomb Community College. The second class will be held at the Vocational Tech Center in Lawrence on March 16, 17, 18, 31, and April 1, 2012. The third class is scheduled for Kirtland Community College on April 20, 21, 22, 28, and 29, 2012. Applications are still being accepted for the second two classes. Letters requesting to participate in the Vo Tech course should be sent to Mike Greis and for the Kirtland College course to Dan Hammerberg.

Rapid Intervention Training: The Director has received a number of requests for a standard Rapid Intervention Team course to be adopted by the MFFTC. The requests are based on departments looking for RIT training. With the increase in mutual aid, uniform state training might be desirable. There are currently some independent courses and publications available in the state. The Director is requesting further direction on this issue and the curriculum committee's role in this issue. (Curriculum Committee will be charged with providing report on Rapid Intervention Team training)

6. ACTING STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT – Karen Towne

Bureau Overview

The Bureau is moving forward with additional web site updates. LARA pages are also being updated, which will cause a slight lag in progress being made.

Plan Review has hired a new Engineer, Surinderjit Kahlon. Surinderjit is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Michigan. He is also, LEED certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) through the U.S. Green Building Council.

We are currently working on policy updates within the Bureau. Our staff is adhering to statewide policies as it relates to employment and employment activities. Clarification on policies and procedures continues. The entire Bureau had a staff meeting last Monday and were presented with NFPA training and the Governor's initiative on reinventing Michigan.

On February 1st, Ms. Towne was designated with the authority for the implementation of the Fireworks Safety Act. Also on February 1, lawsuit was filed against the act. Legal Counsel for the case is the Office of the Attorney General.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. FF I/II and Hazardous Materials Operations – Director Grutza

Upon meeting with the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget (DTMB), it was determined that if Hazardous Materials Operations must be completed before a certificate is given to FF I and/or II, it would need to be done through the "Program Certification " feature in the Information Management System. This would eliminate the watermark certificate that is currently sent to FF I and II graduates. The OFFT will continue to work with DTMB to address this request. Until then, FF certificates will continue to be mailed to those who successfully pass the fire fighter examination.

b. Everyone Goes Home Safe Program – Director Grutza

The OFFT met with the representatives of the "Everyone Goes Home Safe" program this past month. We are being told that if the MFFTC wants to enter this program into the FF I curriculum, the instructors must complete the train the trainer. The director will meet with the EGHS representatives and discuss the suggested options. Director Grutza will report back at the next meeting.

c. Minimum Requirements for Challenge Exam – Director Grutza

At the December 13, 2011 MFFTC meeting, a motion was passed that stated that in order to challenge a fire fighter examination, a fire fighter, volunteer or part paid must have 8 months experience, a full time fire fighter 18 months. The Bureau requested an opinion by the Attorney General on whether the MFFTC acted within its authority when it placed this requirement on the challenge examination. The OFFT has not received an official response from the AG.

d. Curriculum Review Committee – Mike Greis

Mr. Greis reported that he is still waiting on responses for meeting dates.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Review of Study Session

Participants are continuing with reviewing and cross-matching the rules to the act. Spent most of our time reviewing what the Part 74 group has put out regarding position titles within their document. It was decided council was not in complete agreement with the way they have their positions laid out, so changes were made to the respective titles to be consistent with the NFPA standard.

b. Required Hours for MFFTC Courses

Director Grutza reported concerns have been forwarded to the OFFT on the issue of hours required for MFFTC courses. Although most curriculums provide an hourly structure for a class, some, such as the Company Officer course do not specify minimum hours. Therefore it is difficult to know if the course objectives are covered and the material is retained by the student. There was discussion on required hours. Councilperson Pettinger reported visiting three fire training schools and was concerned with classes being cut short. Additional comments were made on the need to maintain minimum hours for fire fighter training. Discussion on the Company Officer course noted factors such as the number of students, the learning levels of the students and outside distractions affecting course hours. Council commented that the only true way to determine the Company Officer course success is through a test. The current Company Officer course examination is developed and delivered by the instructor. A proposal was made for the OFFT to administer the Company Officer examination in the same manner as the FF I and II test and do it during a regularly scheduled examination. Concerns were expressed on what it would take to implement this plan and the effect on the Training Coordinators workload. Director Grutza will survey the Training Coordinators for their input, and develop a report for the next meeting.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Virginia Waterson sent an e-mail to Director Grutza expressing concerns of violations with class 2012-2Z-13-A15C-0077. The Director reported on the investigation and course cancellation.

Bob Austin commented about required hours for classes stating that it should be quality and not quantity. Also, he commends Councilperson Pettinger for taking the initiative to inspect fire training academies.

Training Coordinator Ray Wlosinski commented on the TC's role in testing and the effects of adding a Company Officer test.

Councilperson Purchase submitted a proposal for Fire Instructor II that he developed. He suggested that it be placed on the agenda for the next meeting for discussion.

Councilperson Blomstrom thanked Purchase for submitting the Fire Instructor II proposal. He expressed his concern for the quality of instruction at the new Instructor I level.

Councilperson Pettinger expressed the need for each council member to keep an eye on classes and follow up on inquiries that are brought to the Council's attention.

Councilperson James commented on the importance of doing what is right for the fire fighters, citizens and their families. Issues need to be addressed and safety should be the number one priority

10. ADJOURNMENT

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Blomstrom and seconded by Councilperson Purchase to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

NEXT MEETING


April 10, 2012 @ 1:30 p.m.

Location: Constitution Hall, Hutchison Conference Room
525 West Allegan Street
Lansing, MI 48913

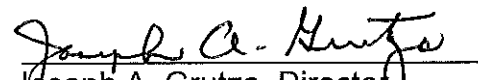
APPROVED:



Michael Deprez
Chairman



Councilperson



Joseph A. Grutza, Director
Office of Fire Fighter Training